



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 27, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 22 totaled an estimated 19.1 billion ton-miles, 6.4 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 12 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 210 billion ton-miles, 10.7 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 22 totaled 464,225 cars, 2.9 percent below 1979, but 1.0 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 1.0 percent in the West, but down 7.7 percent in the East, and 3.4 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 17 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, grain loadings, increased by 7,845 cars, or 33.2 percent and coal was up 6,914 cars, or 6.6 percent. Eleven of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 15 totaled 35,210 cars, down 9.4 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 63,869 trailers and/or containers, 8.2 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 11 weeks of the year was 367,927 cars, 0.2 percent lower than last year, and 666,362 trailers and/or containers, up 1.9 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/22/80.

	Loadings in Week ended March 22, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,507	I	7,845	33.2	D	240	0.8
Other farm products	3,729	D	372	9.1	D	56	1.5
Metallic ores	26,461	D	2,942	10.0	I	1,930	7.9
Coal	111,879	I	6,914	6.6	I	663	0.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,278	D	891	5.9	I	546	4.0
Nonmetallic minerals	15,175	I	548	3.7	I	893	6.3
Grain mill products	17,625	D	100	0.6	D	347	1.9
Food and kindred products	19,267	D	61	0.3	I	68	0.4
Primary forest products	20,047	D	891	4.3	D	94	0.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	10,395	D	1,759	14.5	I	72	0.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	22,300	I	648	3.0	I	1,101	5.2
Chemicals and allied products	30,084	D	3,472	10.3	D	383	1.3
Petroleum products	6,109	D	801	11.6	D	213	3.4
Stone, clay and glass products	15,556	D	3,654	19.0	D	726	4.5
Coke	7,301	D	151	2.0	D	228	3.0
Metals and products	18,998	D	1,262	6.2	I	488	2.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,520	D	6,585	24.3	D	114	0.6
Waste and scrap materials	14,016	D	1,499	9.7	D	130	0.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	12,294	D	1,913	13.5	I	502	4.3
All other carloads	46,337	D	3,478	7.0	I	728	1.6
LCL traffic	347	D	140	28.7	I	91	35.5
Total Cars Loaded	464,225	D	14,016	2.9	I	4,551	1.0
Corresponding week of 1979	478,241						

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total Cars Loaded (12 weeks)	5,279,008	5,030,563	I	4.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
11 weeks cumulative	190.4	171.3	I	11.1
Week ended March 22	<u>19.1</u>	<u>17.9</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>6.4</u>
12 weeks cumulative	209.5	189.3	I	10.7